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Message Text

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14-11
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05

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R 240807Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2599
INFO CINCPAC

UNCLAS MANILA 5272

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RP, US
SUBJ: SECRETARY ROMULO ON US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS

REF: MANILA 5183

1. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF STORY HEADLINED "ROMULO TWITS US FOR FORD'S "AMNESIA" BIT" WHICH APPEARED ON FRONT PAGE OF APRIL 24 BULLETIN AND REPORTED REFTEL. TIMES JOURNAL AND DAILY EXPRESS CARRIED SIMILAR STORIES.

2. BEGIN TEXT. FOREIGN SECRETARY CARLOS P. ROMULO CHIDED THE US STATE DEPARTMENT YESTERDAY FOR PRESIDENT FORD'S FAIL-URE TO INCLUDE THE PHILIPPINES AS ONE OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHOSE LEADERS HE (FORD) INTENDED TO "REASSURE PERSONALLY" AS A RESULT OF THE INDOCHINA FIASCO.
IN AN IMPROMPTU STATEMENT MADE AT A LUNCHON GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY IN HONOR OF BENJAMIN M. FLECK, DIRECTOR OF THE PHILIPPINE DESK, US STATE DEPARTMENT, ROMULO SAID: "I QUOTE FROM THE TIME MAGAZINE OF APRIL 21ST, TO WIT: 'FORD'S SPEECH DID ANNOUNCE SOME NEW DIPLOMATIC MOVES. HE SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO MEET WITH LEADERS OF AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA, AS WELL AS OTHER ASIAN NATIONS,
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TO REASSURE THEM PERSONALLY THAT THE EVENTS IN INDOCHINA

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WOULD NOT AFFECT AMERICA'S RESOLVE TO RETAIN CLOSE TIES WITH THEM." ROMULO SAID THAT NO MENTION WAS MADE OF THE PHILIP-PINES. "OF COURSE THIS IS NOT IMPORTANT," HE ADDED. "IT COULD HAVE BEEN AN INVOLUNTARY OVERSIGHT." ROMULO SAID THAT SINCE PRESIDENT FORD OR HIS SECRETARY OR "MAYBE THE US PHILIPPINE DESK ENTIRELY FORGOT THE PHILIPPINES, AT LEAST HE COULD HAVE MENTIONED CLARK AIR FORCE BASE, WHICH HAS AN AMERICAN NAME, THE AMERICAN FLAG FLIES OVER IT, AND ACCORDING TO OFFICIALS PRONOUNCEMENTS, THE US IS DETERMINED TO DEFEND IT IN CASE OF AN ATTACK, IN ACCORDANCE WITH US CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES." "THE OMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES I REPEAT, IS NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL, BUT WE LIKE TO THINK THAT MAYBE WE ARE THE ONE REMAINING TRUE AND TRIED FRIEND OF THE US IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND TO OMIT US IN A FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES REMINDS ME OF WHAT WILL ROGERS ONCE SAID: I AM PROUD TO BE A FRIEND OF HIS--AND IT ISN'T EASY TO BE A MAN'S ONLY FRIEND."
END TEXT.
SULLIVAN

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